

D-621

World War I Memorial Fountain

Cambridge

Dorchester County

Capsule Summary

The World War I Memorial Fountain is located on the Choptank River at the Long Wharf Municipal Park in the town of Cambridge. The fountain faces southwest, centered within an elliptical green formed by the end of High Street, just southeast of the yacht basin. Built in the Rustic Style, constructed of local field stone and boulders, it has a circular basin and is centered by a pillbox-shaped fountain works, also constructed of field stone. A bronze plaque mounted on a whitewashed concrete plinth on the southwest side of the basin reads, "DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE MEN OF DORCHESTER COUNTY WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE WORLD WAR." The plaque carries an eagle in relief at the center top and three stars centered below the inscription.

The memorial contributes to the significance of Wards I and III of the Cambridge Historic District under Criterion C, in the area of design, as a representative example of Rustic Style landscape and park architecture. The fountain was constructed in 1938, sponsored by Dorchester County and its citizens, and dedicated to forty-five men from the county who died in World War I. It meets National Register Criteria Consideration F for commemorative properties, as it reflects the era's shared perception of the noble character and valor of the veterans and their cause. The fountain was dedicated at 8:00 in the evening of June 30, 1938, at Municipal Park. The fountain design was made by the Westinghouse Company.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-621

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic World War I Memorial Fountain

other

### 2. Location

street and number Long Wharf Municipal Park, High Street not for publication

city, town Cambridge vicinity

county Dorchester

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Commissioners of Cambridge

street and number 307 Gay Street telephone 410-228-4020

city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Courthouse liber 30 folio 679

city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 112 tax ID number 174462

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____ structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	1 objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			N/A

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-621

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The World War I Memorial Fountain is located on the Choptank River at the Long Wharf Municipal Park in the town of Cambridge. The fountain faces southwest, centered within an elliptical green formed by the end of High Street, just southeast of the yacht basin. Built in the Rustic Style, constructed of local field stone and boulders, it has a circular basin and is centered by a pillbox-shaped fountain works, also constructed of field stone. A bronze plaque mounted on a whitewashed concrete plinth on the southwest side of the basin reads, "DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE MEN OF DORCHESTER COUNTY WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE WORLD WAR." The plaque carries an eagle in relief at the center top and three stars centered below the inscription.

The fountain basin is 40' in diameter, 2'6" high and is constructed of large boulder stones on the inside and outside of the wall, which is 1' thick. The top of the wall is embellished with smaller stones bedded in mortar with pointed edges set upright. The basin interior is painted white up to the waterline. The fountain works, 11'6" in diameter, 6' high and 1'6" thick, is constructed of random boulders and cobbles, and is also topped with smaller, pointed stones. A wooden door is set into the wall above the water line on the southwest side. A concrete walkway encircles the fountain basin and bisects the green ellipse on the perpendicular to the roadway.

A bank of yews backs the fountain on the northeast, river side. Beyond the yews is a flagpole with yardarm carrying the US, Maryland and Dorchester County flags. A bronze plaque mounted on a flush granite stone and set between the yews and the flagpole is inscribed, "REHABILITATION OF FOUNTAIN BY COOPERATION OF CAMBRIDGE ROTARY CLUB 1986." According to the Cambridge Department of Public Works, the fountain was reworked to provide a larger spray. At this writing the fountain is in need of repair.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-621

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

**Specific dates** 1938 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1938

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Cambridge World War I Memorial Fountain contributes to the significance of Wards I and III of the Cambridge Historic District under Criterion C, in the area of design, as a representative example of Rustic Style landscape and park architecture. The fountain was constructed in 1938, sponsored by Dorchester County and its citizens, and dedicated to forty-five men from the county who died in World War I. It meets National Register Criteria Consideration F for commemorative properties, as it reflects the era's shared perception of the noble character and valor of the veterans and their cause.

Rustic Style architecture revealed late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century America's respect for the country's roots and the settler pioneers who constructed rough cabins of local materials. Originating in late 19<sup>th</sup> century vacation homes in the Adirondack Mountains, the style was adopted by the National Park Service at its founding in 1916, demonstrating the agency's desire for its buildings to blend with the natural surroundings. Through the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, park buildings and structures were constructed of log and stone, and became recognized as examples of the "National Park Service Style." The style grew with the development of resorts in the Rocky Mountain west and was spread throughout the nation by way of the work-relief programs of the Depression. It was a popular, picturesque and Romantic architecture that evoked America's past. The Park Service's philosophy can be found in "Park and Recreation Structures," which states, "Successfully handled, (rustic) is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and oversophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past."<sup>1</sup>

According to the *Cambridge Daily Banner* of July 1, 1938, the fountain was dedicated at 8:00 in the evening of June 30 at Municipal Park by the County Commissioners, the City Commissioners, the Drum and Bugle Corps, Company "C," Rescue Fire Company, Veterans Association, Boy Scouts, Women's Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Legionnaires, Colored Post, and Colored Boy Scouts. State's Attorney J. Gorman Hill, a member of the Dorchester American Legion Post No. 91, was the speaker for the evening. Hill recalled "that gallant band who gave their lives for your safety and mine; who in the hour of the nation's peril, gave up all that was dear to them, and while parents, sisters and sweethearts waved fond farewells, left from near this very spot – to do their duty for God and country." The Board of the County Commissioners (L. Otis Corkran, John A. Baker, and George D. Holder) "contributed to its support and cost"; Mayor Charles E. Brohawn, James A. Slacum, Darcy Davis, Granville Hooper, Nolan McCarter, and H. Manadier St. Clair contributed "their property, goods and time," and "moral as well as financial support"; and the committee of Russell Baker, Willard Hooper and Howard Sullivan carried out the plans for the memorial.

The fountain design was made by the Westinghouse Company, described as using "entirely automatic equipment, worked by remote control." At the time of dedication, it had seven different water effects and eight changes of lights, taking twenty-one minutes to run

<sup>1</sup> Laura Soullière Harrison, *Architecture in the Parks: A National Historic Landmark Theme Study*, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, November 1986, [[http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/harrison](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/harrison)].

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-621

Name

### Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

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through a cycle. Hill took note of the fountain's location, sited "at the approach to our city," from where it would "represent to all who may come and see, the love and esteem you have shown for our departed comrades."<sup>2</sup>

According to the Archives of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Maryland, housed at the University of Maryland, some work was done on Long Wharf by the Civil Works Administration, a predecessor to the WPA. A CWA report indicates the work on the wharf was project number 7.<sup>3</sup> The report, produced by the CWA in 1934, describes CWA activities in Maryland between November 1933 and March 1934. Photos in the collection show work on the wharf, but there is no record of the fountain in the WPA archive and the CWA work on the wharf predates construction of the fountain.

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<sup>2</sup> *Cambridge Daily Banner*, 1 July 1938.

<sup>3</sup> Archives of the WPA in Maryland, University of Maryland, College Park, 5.2 CWA, Box 39, Folder 4, and correspondence with Jennie A. Levine, Curator for Historical Manuscripts, Archives and Manuscripts Department.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-621

Archives of the WPA in Maryland, University of Maryland, College Park, 5.2 CWA, Box 39, Folder 4.

Harrison, Laura Soullière, *Architecture in the Parks: A National Historic Landmark Theme Study*, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, November 1986, [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/harrison](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/harrison).

"Memorial Fountain is Dedicated Here." *Cambridge Daily Banner*, 1 July 1938, 1, 3.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property less than one acre  
Acreage of historical setting 7.04 acres (Long Wharf Park)  
Quadrangle name Cambridge, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the property is defined by the inner curb line of the ellipse formed by the north end of High Street and contains the fountain with associated landscaping and flagpole. The nominated property is part of Parcel 112 on Dorchester County Tax Map 301, which is also USGS described in the Land Records of Dorchester County, Maryland, in Liber 30, Folio 679.

## 11. Form Prepared by

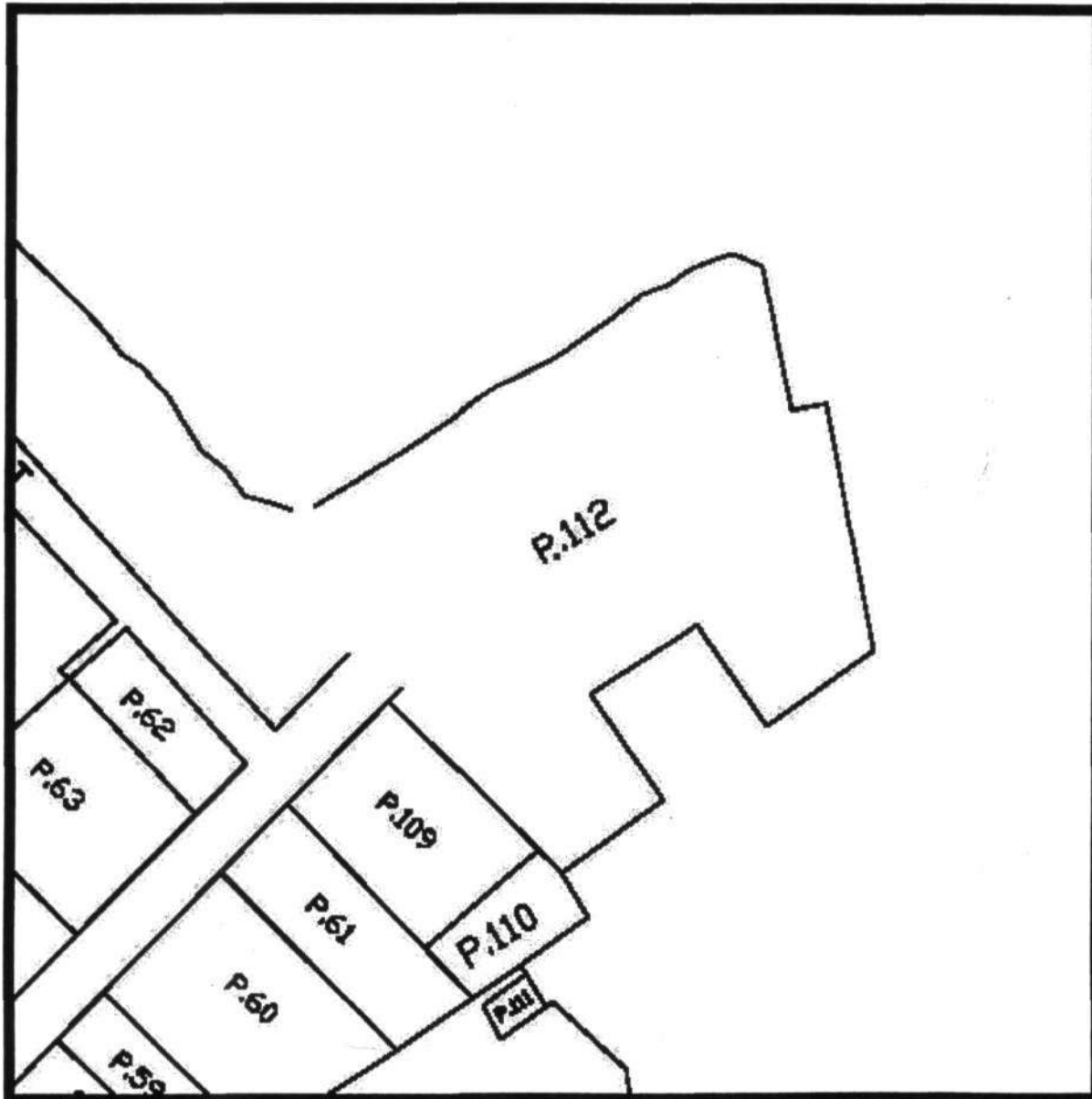
name/title	Nancy Kurtz		
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date	August 8, 2007
street & number	100 Community Place	telephone	410-5114-7648
city or town	Crownsville	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

D-621  
World War I Memorial Fountain  
Cambridge  
Dorchester County  
Parcel 112, Dorchester County Tax Map 301





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N







D-621

World War I Memorial Fountain, Cambridge

Dorchester County, MD

Nancy Korte

June 13, 2007

MD SHPO

view north

1/4



D-621

World War I Memorial Mountain, corner of

Dorchester County, MD

Nancy KARTZ

June 13 2007

MD SHPO

View east

2/4



D-1271

World War I Memorial Foundation

Dorchester County, MD

Nancy Kurtz

June 18, 2007

MD SHPD

bronze plaque

3/4





D-621

World War I Memorial Foundation, Cambridge

Dorchester County, MA

Nancy Kurtz

June 13, 2007

MO 5:00

detail of basin

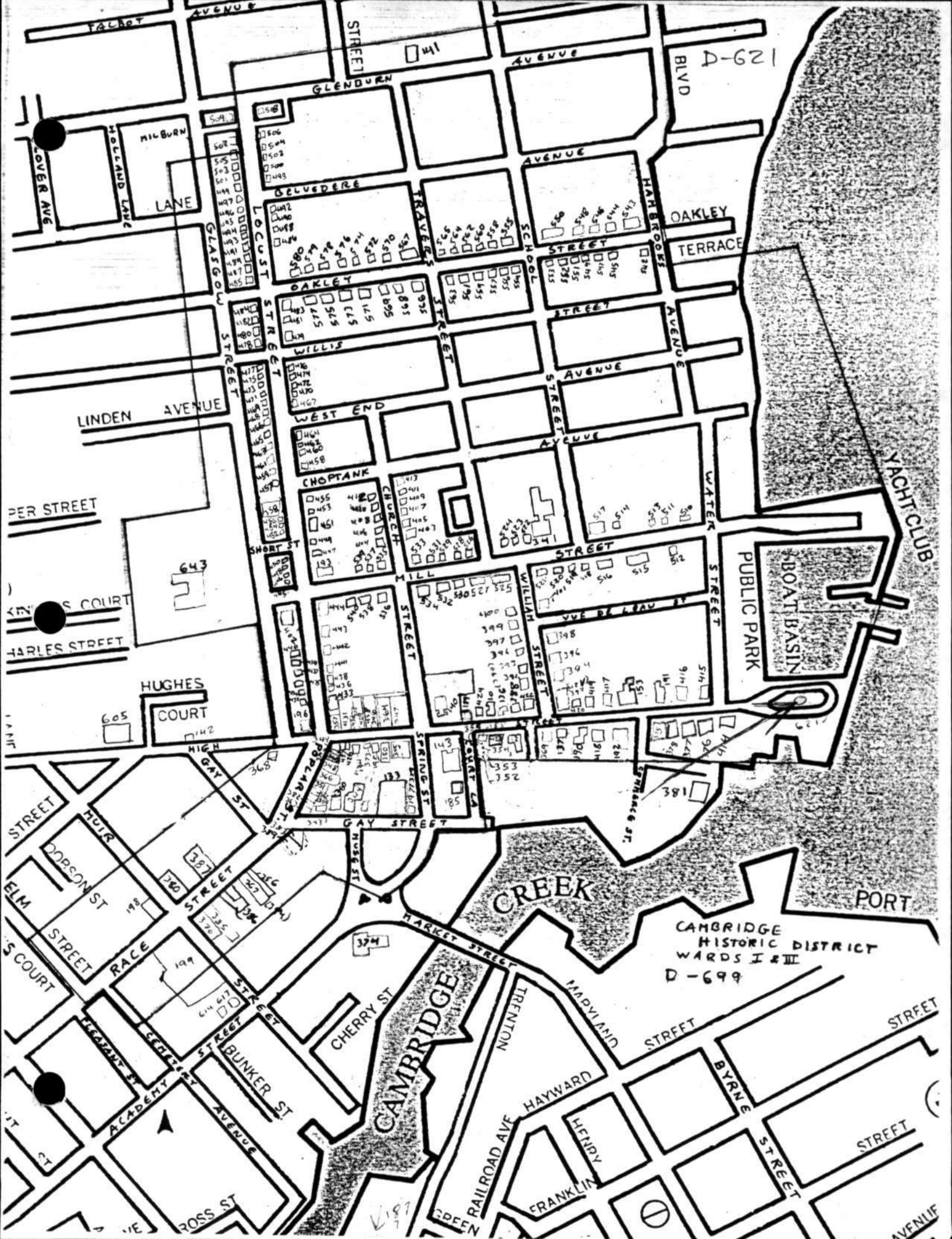
7/4

D-621

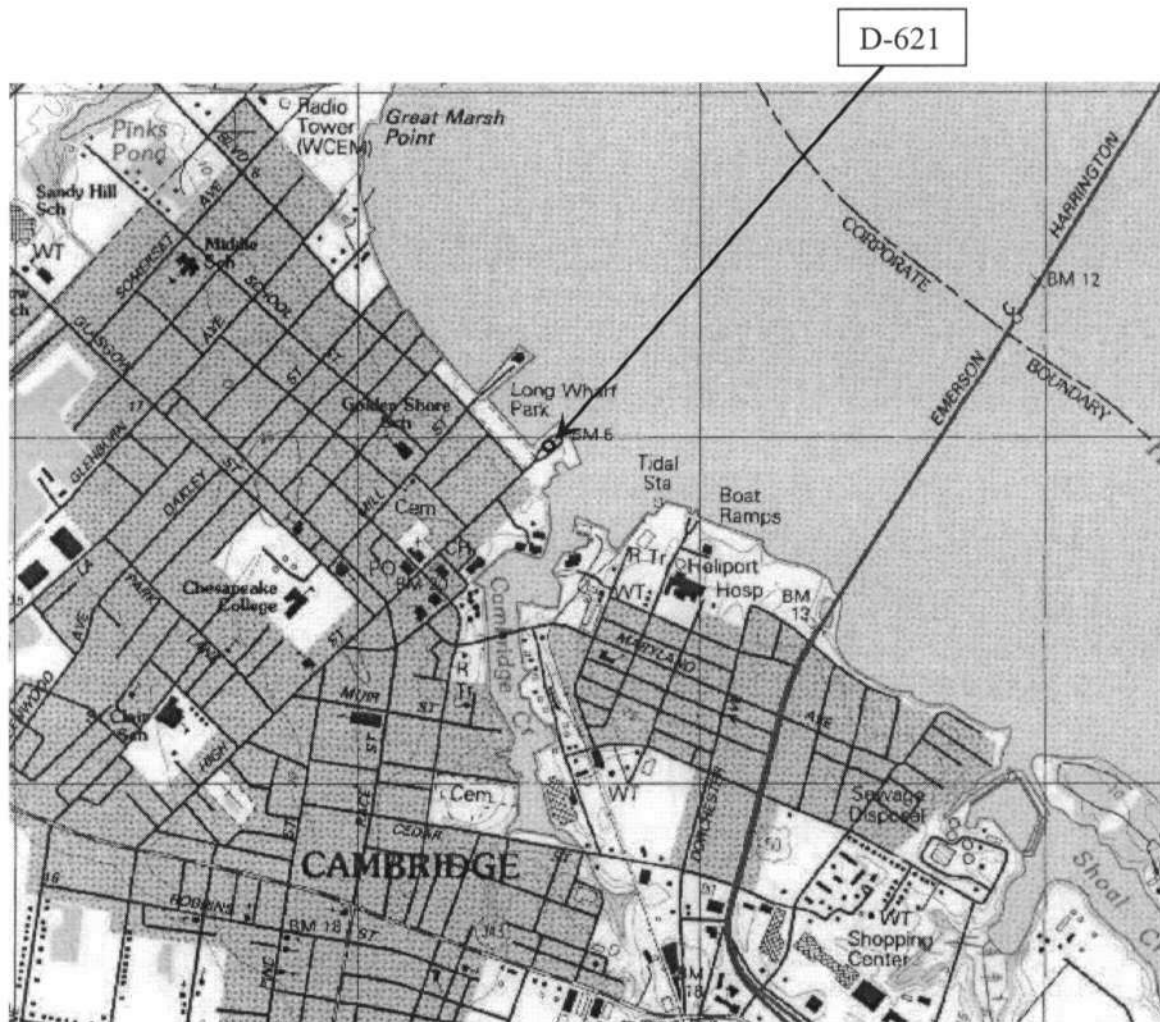
1918

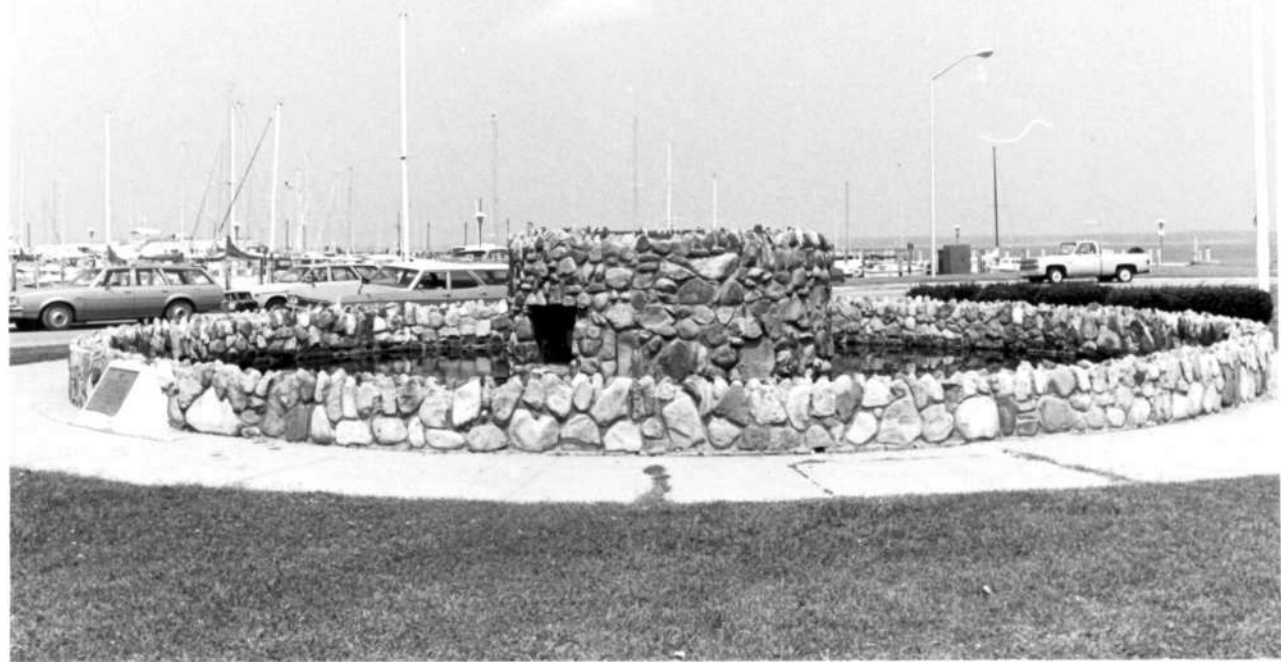
World War I Memorial  
Cambridge  
Public

This rather unprepossessing stone fountain set in the middle of the circular drive on the Long Wharf is Cambridge's monument to its sons who lost their lives in World War I. A marker monument created in 1946 after the Second World War stands nearby on Water Street near the Yacht Club.



D-621  
World War I Memorial  
High St.  
Cambridge  
Cambridge Quad.  
Dorchester Co.







D-621

WWI Memorial, Cambridge

60%